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TAGS: PREL UNGA KPAL IS GR
SUBJECT: GREECE: DEMARCHE OPPOSING UNGA RESOLUTIONS WITH ANTI-ISRAEL
BIAS

REF: STATE 118799

(SBU) Post delivered reftel message on opposition to one-sided UN General Assembly resolutions on November 18 to Greek MFA D1 Directorate (UN and Internal Organizations) Second Counselor Loukas Tsokos and to MFA A6 Directorate (Arab Countries and Middle East) Counselor Stelios Gavriil. Both expressed thanks for the information, acknowledging they were familiar with the U.S. position and noting that Greece would coordinate its votes within the EU. Gavriil pointed to Greece's abstention on the November 5 Goldstone report resolution as a "step forward" and an example of Greece pursuing a "balanced stance." He explained that Greece decided to abstain, despite criticism from left-wing parties within Greece and the country's good relations with the Palestinians, because such resolutions had a "negative impact on the Israeli side" and hurt the prospects for the peace process.

Speckhard